

28 July 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Intelligence Support

SUBJECT: Distribution of FBIS Reports

1. FBIS now publishes current information in five colored Daily Reports containing about 300 pages of material. Of this total, about 50 pages can be distributed only to government users because of copyright, libel, or slander laws. Of the remaining 250 pages, FBIS selects about 80 pages for inclusion in a "White" Daily Report which is distributed to non-governmental readers.

2. This "White" report was limited in size because it was felt that it met most non-governmental needs and because PSD could readily publish this much material.

3. If it would be useful to the Agency, FBIS could easily make all 250 pages of current information available daily to non-governmental users. We could prepare, for example, "White" reports for each colored Daily Report, or for selected reports, and these could contain whatever portion of the 250 pages was felt to meet consumer requirements. FBIS could initiate such "White" reports on very short notice and without any increase in staff or funds. (In fact, FBIS would find it easier to present the entire 250 pages daily in "White" reports than to select, as it now does, items to fill 80 pages.)

4. It should be clear from the above that "copyright restrictions" in no way prevent FBIS from markedly increasing the amount of current information available for non-governmental use. Limits on the amount of material being distributed are imposed not by FBIS but by PSD, which has to print the material. FBIS can prepare daily one, two, three, or four "White" books of 30-80 pages each whenever PSD can arrange to print them routinely. (If the demand for copies of our present limited "White" report is any indication -- it goes to 900 consumers -- these other "White" reports will be very popular, and perhaps as many as 1,000 copies of each will be required.)

5. Since the limitation on distribution is not imposed by FBIS, it cannot be lifted by FBIS. If a high-level decision is made to increase the dissemination of FBIS material to non-government users, the problem should be referred to PSD for solution.


Director, FBIS

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